

Remarks

The examiner's reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendment above, attachment hereto, and comments which follow.

Regarding an Abstract, as noted above and attached hereto, an appropriate abstract has been provided and it is believed that the requirement of the examiner set forth in the March 20, 2003 office action has been satisfied.

With regard to the rejection of claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite, the amendment above deletes the offending material. It is believed that the claims now all meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

The examiner has rejected claims 21 - 24, 27, 35 and 37 - 39 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the SuperPet internet reference provided by the examiner. The remaining claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 on the basis of obviousness, again with the SuperPet internet reference being the primary cited reference. Reconsideration is requested.

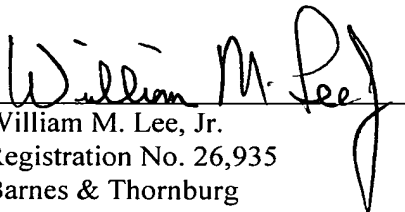
It is believed that the SuperPet reference is an inappropriate reference, since nothing provided by the examiner has demonstrated that the items of cage furniture shown in the SuperPet and PetSmart internet references were set forth in those references before the priority date of the present application, which is July 6, 2000. Rather, the examiner has only demonstrated that the items of cage furniture shown in the cited internet references were available at the date of preparation of the office action. Unless proper evidence is provided, it is clear that the internet references are inapplicable.

The remaining references have been considered, but do not appear to adversely affect the patentability of the present application, whether taken alone or in combination of their teachings.

Given the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and the examiner's further and favorable reconsideration of the application is urged. Also, since this response is being submitted during the sixth month following the examiner's office action, an appropriate petition for extension of time is submitted herewith.

September 18, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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